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NAVY OPENS PROBE FILES ON EARHART

Evidence Was 2 Fliers Missed Howland, Fell In Ocean

Washington, July 12 (AP)—Long-secret Navy files on investigations into the disappearance of Amerlia earhart and her navigator, Fred J. Noonan, on a flight across the Pacific 30 years ago have been declassified and placed in the open records of the Navy's historical division.

Like several other files made available to the public previously, the 2-inch-think collection of letters and reports adds up to the conclusion that the two missed their target (Howland Island) in a flight from Lae, New Guinea and, fuel supply exhausted, dropped into the ocean.

Find No Support For Saipan

A lengthy report by the Office of Naval Investigation found no evidence to support conjecture—in a t least two books and several magazine articles—that they were on a spying mission for the United States Government; that they crash-landed on Saipan Islands in the Marianas; that they were takne prisoner by the Japanese, and, possibly years later, were executed as spies or alloed to die of prison ailments.

Also in the file is a January 18, 1945, letter from J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, to the War Department telling of a report by a serviceman of "unknown reliability."

Supposed Jananese Talk

This unidentified individual said that before World War II, in a hotel in the Philippines, he overheard a conversation in English by two Japanese officers to the effect that Miss Earhart was still alive and was being held in a Tokyo hotel.

The Navy documents include several showing that both the United States and Japanese governments investigated the reports of the capture and death of the two fliers, but found nothing to support them.